

- **Commodity exports edged up 0.8% in July**
- **Housing starts in British Columbia rose 17.7% in August**
- **New home prices dipped 1.0% in July**

The Economy

- **The value of B.C.'s commodity exports edged up 0.8% in July as strong growth in shipments of machinery, equipment and automobiles (+11.2%) and forest products (+2.7%) more than offset declines in exports of energy products (-3.2%) and industrial and consumer goods (-2.8%).** Exports to the United States fell 2.5%, largely due to a 21.3% slump in shipments of energy products. However, exports to the rest of the world climbed 3.7%, mainly on the strength of a 31.9% jump in shipments of machinery, equipment and automobiles and a 4.4% rise in forest product exports.

Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

- **Manufacturing sales in British Columbia inched up 0.6% (seasonally adjusted) in July, chiefly due to heightened shipments of durable goods (+2.5%).** Sales by primary metal (+10.0%) manufacturers recorded the largest increase seen in 17 months, while sales by producers of wood products (+0.6%) increased marginally. Non-durables dipped 1.5%, as sales by manufacturers of food (-1.3%) and paper (-9.8%) products fell.

Nationwide, manufacturing sales slipped 1.5%, as Quebec (-2.6%) and Ontario (-1.9%), accounting for 69.5% of manufacturing sales, both recorded decreased sales. After three consecutive months of decline, manufacturing sales in Alberta (+0.1%), remained relatively unchanged.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Total housing starts in British Columbia advanced 17.7% (seasonally adjusted) in**

August, following a decrease of 28.6% in the previous month. In urban centres, starts rose 18.2%, specifically for multiple-dwelling (+33.1%) homes, while starts for single-detached (-16.4%) homes fell.

Nationally, housing starts increased 8.1%, led by Nova Scotia (+132.1%) and Manitoba (+38.5%). Saskatchewan (+18.7%) and Ontario (19.9%) also saw growth in August, but starts were lower in Newfoundland (-16.3%), PEI (-8.3%), Quebec (-11.1%), and Alberta (-11.8%).

Data Source: CMHC

- **The average cost for a new home (house and land) in British Columbia fell 1.0% in July, compared to the same month in the previous year.** Lower house prices (-2.0%) drove the decline, as land values edged up (+0.2%). New home prices fell in both Victoria (-2.9%) and Vancouver (-0.8%). Nationally, the average cost of a new home went up 2.3%.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Health

- **Breast cancer awareness month is just around the corner. The incidence of breast cancer (age standardized) in British Columbia in 2009 was 96.4 women per 100,000 of the population, up from 92.5 in 2008.** Over the period of 2003 to 2007, the average rate of incidence was 93.2. Among the reporting provinces, B.C. reported the third lowest rate of incidence, behind Newfoundland and Labrador (84.6), and P.E.I. (86.1). Ontario reported the highest rate (105.9), followed by Saskatchewan (102.0).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Did you know...

On average, Canadian teachers receive compensation 5% higher than other workers with equivalent education levels in Canada.

Source: *Education at a Glance 2012: OECD Indicators*

University Tuition Fees

- **Undergraduate tuition fees in British Columbia for full-time Canadian students rose 2.0% for the 2012/2013 academic year, with an average cost of \$5,015.** Tuition fees across the country have grown at a faster rate relative to B.C., with a national average increase of 5.0%, and cost of \$5,581. Ontario, which recorded the highest fees in the country (\$7,180), raised tuition by 5.4%, followed by Saskatchewan (+4.9%), P.E.I. (+4.0%), Alberta (+3.9%), Nova Scotia (+3.7%), New Brunswick (+3.3%), and Manitoba (+2.5%). In Quebec, tuition increased 10.1%, (more than any other province) but with the increase, the province shifted from having the lowest to the second lowest fees in the country (\$2,774). Newfoundland and Labrador, where tuition fees have been frozen at \$2,649 since 2003/2004, has the lowest fees in the country

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Across Canada, undergraduate students enrolled in dentistry programs continue to pay the highest tuition rates, averaging \$16,910 per year (an increase of 5.4% from 2011/2012).** Medical students pay \$11,891 (+5.1%), the second highest, followed by those studying pharmacy, who pay \$10,297 (+5.9%). Undergraduate business, management and public administration (+6.8%) students saw the largest rise in tuition costs (\$6,060), while agriculture, natural resources, and conservation students' tuition rose only 2.7% (\$5,095).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Graduate tuition fees for full-time Canadian students in British Columbia also increased 2.0%, ranking the third highest in the country at an average cost of \$7,593.** Ontario's tuition fees remain the highest, at \$8,041 (+4.7%), followed by Nova Scotia, with an average cost of \$7,613 (+2.5%). The largest increase was in Quebec, where tuition rose 9.2%, however the average cost remained the second lowest in the nation, at \$2,969. Tuition in jumped 6.2% in Saskatchewan (\$3,656), 3.6% in New Brunswick (\$5,449), 2.9% in Manitoba

(\$4,292), and 2.7% in P.E.I. (\$4,100). Aside from Newfoundland and Labrador (no change), the lowest increase was in Alberta (+1.5%), where the students paid an average cost of \$4,746.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Graduate students enrolled in executive master of business administration programs faced the highest tuition fees, which rose 4.2% in 2012/2013 to \$38,508, while regular master of business administration fees swelled 4.1%, to \$23,757.** Law and legal profession (+5.9%) tuition fees increased at the highest rate among disciplines, to \$5,614, while business, management, and public administration tuitions rose by just 2.2%, to \$8,105.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Energy

- **Final demand for total primary and secondary energy use in British Columbia advanced 1.3% in 2010.** The production of primary energy in British Columbia increased 12.1%, a result of strong export growth (+8.2%), and reduced imports (-8.5%). Coal production (+23.2%) expanded considerably, as exports soared (+20.3%), and final energy use demand (-1.6%) fell slightly. Production of natural gas jumped (+10.5%), as exports increased 2.8%, and imports to the province dropped 5.9%, following a heightened volume of imports (+79.0%) in 2009. Final energy use of natural gas declined 5.2%. Crude oil (-0.6%) production fell for the tenth straight year, as exports dropped 6.2%. Production of primary electricity (hydro and nuclear) declined 4.9%, with a reduction in both exports (-17.2%), and imports (-10.2%), and final demand (-0.3%) edging down slightly. Thermal energy production in the province expanded 15.9%, exceeding peak levels recorded in 2001.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Infoline issue: 12-37
September 14, 2012



Email transmission information service from BC Stats



also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose **RSS**

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		
	Apr 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,606.5	1.0
Canada	34,755.6	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	203,147	5.9
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)	167,140	3.0
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)	26,166	2.2
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jun 2012	3,198	0.0
Merchandise Exports - Jun 2012	2,581	-0.5
Retail Sales - Jun 2012	5,089	-1.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago
(all items - Jul 2012)		12-month avg % change
BC	1.1	1.8
Vancouver	1.4	1.9
Victoria	1.0	1.6
Canada	1.3	2.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug 2012	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	14.9	
Labour Force - BC	2,488.3	0.3
Employed - BC	2,322.6	0.6
Unemployed - BC	165.7	-3.9
		Jul 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	6.7	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.3	7.3
INTEREST RATES (percent)		
	Sep 5/2012	Sep 7/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.10	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		
	Sep 5/2012	Sep 7/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$	0.9902	0.9883
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$	1.0092	1.0147
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug 2012	
BC	850.66	1.3
Canada	874.01	4.1

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Solid Waste Generation Forecast

This report highlights three projection scenarios with varying degrees of measures taken to divert waste from British Columbia landfills. The report includes a summary of the methodology and the results of the forecast for each scenario from 2010 through 2025. Read this at: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/EnvironmentalStatistics/Analysis.aspx>

Census 2011 Fast Facts

The age-sex data from the 2011 Census have been released. For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. See more: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx>

Follow @BCStats on Twitter

The central statistical agency of the Province of BC is regularly updating and interacting on the Twitter social media platform – connect with us: <https://twitter.com/bcstats>

New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx>

The 2011 National Household Survey

Release dates have been set as:

May 8, 2013

- Immigration; Citizenship; Place of birth; Language; Ethnic origin; Visible minorities; Religion; Aboriginal Peoples

June 26, 2013

- Labour; Education; Place of work; Commuting to work; Mobility and migration; Language of work

August 14, 2013

- Income; Earnings; Housing; Shelter costs

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm>

Released this week by BC Stats

- Economic Statistics Report, September 2012
- Exports, July 2012

Released next week

- Consumer Price Index, August 2012